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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/630,136	07/31/2003	Michael A. Guantonio		6679

7590 07/13/2005

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EXAMINER

SAETHER, FLEMMING

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3677

DATE MAILED: 07/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/630,136

Applicant(s)

GUANTONIO, MICHAEL A.

Examiner

Flemming Saether

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 April 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Cull (US 796,900). Cull discloses nut assembly comprising a first nut (2) with internal threads (2a) and a blind bore with female threads (2aa) and; a second nut (3) having internal threads (3a) and a flange with male threads (3b) which engage the female threads. The number of threads per inch of the internal threads is the same corresponding to a threaded bolt (1). As seen in the figures and as described in claim 1, the male and female threads have a greater pitch, or in other words have lesser number of threads per inch, than the internal threads.

The second nut is also read as having a “blind bore” adjacent the first end and since there are limitations required of the “blind bore” it is simply considered as being the end part of the threaded bore. In other words there is no requirement that the “blind bore” on the second nut be unthreaded.

Claims 1, 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Dillon (US 257,854). Dillon discloses nut assembly comprising a first nut (B) with internal threads (not labeled) and a blind bore with female threads (at c) and; a second nut (C) having internal threads (not labeled) and a flange with male threads (at

c) which engage the female threads. The number of threads per inch of the internal threads is the same corresponding to a threaded bolt (A). As seen in the figures and as described in lines, the male and female threads are "finer", or in other words have greater number of threads per inch, than the internal threads.

As in the above rejection, the second nut is also read as having a "blind bore" adjacent the first end and since there are limitations required of the "blind bore" it is simply considered as being the end part of the threaded bore. In other words there is no requirement that the "blind bore" on the second nut be unthreaded.

Response to Remarks

Applicant initially argues that the claims define over Cull because the first and second nuts in Cull are oriented inverse to the first and second nuts of the instant invention. In response, it is noted that the orientation of the nuts is not recited in the claims and although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). Furthermore, it should be recognized that nuts in Cull would be capable of meeting the orientation of the nuts as in the instant invention since they would be capable of being threaded onto the bolt at their other end.

Applicant next argues that neither Cull nor Dillon discloses a blind bore adjacent the first end of the second nut. In response, as discussed above there are no limitations claimed of the blind bore which would preclude either Cull or Dillon from

reading on that feature. Again, the claims are interpreted in light of the specification; limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. Furthermore, the examiner is of the opinion, that absent some criticality, the inclusion of the blind bore on the second nut would have been a matter of design choice since it does not provide any advantage over the prior art to Cull and Dillon.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

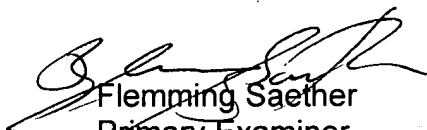
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Flemming Saether whose telephone number is 703-308-0182. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Swann can be reached on 703-306-4115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Flemming Sæther
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3677